Title: Regarding reported decision of the Government to resume military assistance to Nepal.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the House to an important issue. I thought that the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs would be present here during the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no hour called 'Zero Hour'. You please just make a mention of your subject.

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*Not Recorded.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Sir, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the House to the news items which have been published in all the national dailies saying that in Jakarta our Prime Minister had promised to resume the supply of arms to the Royal Nepal Army.

If it is true, then, it would be a betrayal of trust made to the political parties of Nepal who are struggling for the restoration of democracy. At this prevailing situation, it would definitely strengthen the hands of the Nepal's monarchy whose reactionary putsch of February 1 prompted the suspension of military aid in the first place. This House has expressed its deep concern in this regard.

In resolving not to send weapons from our great country, India signalled that it was unacceptable to it to use war against the Maoist outfits as a pretext for banishing democratic politics and imposing the rule of monarchy to push back the country to the ancient regime of Nepal. It is this stand taken by our country that has been highly appreciated in this august House itself. In fact, this has become the consensus opinion of our country.

Till date, there is no sign of improvement in Nepal. Press censorship continues. All the political parties and their activities are banned. Thousands and thousands of political leaders and workers have been put behind bars. Fresh general election has not yet been called. All sorts of repressive measures still continue. In such a situation, there is no ground for changing our stand. It is not understood what is the ground for taking a U-turn position. If such a decision to send our arms is in the pipeline, then, the Government should immediately revoke it. Otherwise, it would be quite inconsistent with the concept adopted in this august House.

The hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Minister of External Affairs should clear the position of our Government in this House. Otherwise, it will create a confusion in the minds of the people in the country. Hence, I draw your attention and through you, the attention of the Government to this important issue.